

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

FILED
CLERK

2014 OCT 15 PM 4: 04

-----X
TIMOTHY FAISON,

Plaintiff,

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT
OF NEW YORK
COMPLAINT

-against-

CV 14 - 6049

THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
POLICE OFFICER PHILOGENE BREVILLE (TAX 940974),
POLICE OFFICER QUENTIN SAXON (TAX 947466), and
POLICE OFFICER TOMASZ FIL (TAX 945188),

**PLAINTIFF DEMANDS
A TRIAL BY JURY**

GLEESON, J.

Defendants.
-----X

AZRACK, M.J.

Plaintiff, Timothy Faison, by his attorneys, Reibman & Weiner, as and for his
Complaint, hereby alleges as follows, upon information and belief:

PARTIES, VENUE and JURISDICTION

1. At all times hereinafter mentioned, plaintiff, Timothy Faison, was an adult male resident of Kings County, within the State of New York.

2. At all relevant times hereinafter mentioned, defendant City of New York ("New York City"), was and is a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of New York and acts by and through its agencies, employees and agents, including, but not limited to, the New York City Police Department ("NYPD"), and their employees.

3. At all relevant times hereinafter mentioned, defendant Philogene Breville (Tax 940974) was an individual employed by the City of New York as a member of the NYPD assigned to the 69th Precinct of the NYPD. Defendant Breville is sued herein in his official and

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

10/15/14

individual capacities.

4. At all relevant times hereinafter mentioned, defendant Quentin Saxon (Tax 947466) was an individual employed by the City of New York as a member of the NYPD assigned to the 69th Precinct of the NYPD. Defendant Saxon is sued herein in his official and individual capacities.

5. At all relevant times hereinafter mentioned, defendant Police Officer Tomasz Fil (TAX 945188) was an individual employed by the City of New York as a member of the NYPD assigned to the 69th Precinct of the NYPD. Defendant Fil is currently assigned to Highway Unit Number 3 of the NYPD. Defendant Fil is sued herein in his official and individual capacities.

6. This Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343 and 1367, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

7. Venue is properly laid, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1391, et seq., in the Eastern District of New York, where the plaintiff and defendant City of New York reside, and where the majority of the actions complained of herein occurred.

8. That plaintiff timely served a Notice of Claim on the municipal defendant and complied with all conditions precedent to commencing an action under state law.

9. At least thirty days have elapsed since service of plaintiff's Notice of Claim and adjustment and payment thereof has been neglected or refused.

10. That the within action has been initiated within one year and ninety days of the accrual of plaintiff's claims pursuant to New York State Law.

RELEVANT FACTS

11. On July 24, 2013, at about 4:30 p.m., plaintiff was lawfully present inside of the lobby located at 106-02 Farragut Road, County of Kings, City and State of New York.

12. At or about this time, defendants Breville, Saxon, and Fil arrived on duty.

13. Without any legal justification or excuse, the individual defendants approached plaintiff and began to question him.

14. Plaintiff was not engaged in any suspicious or illegal activity.

15. Despite the absence of any evidence of wrong doing on the part of the plaintiff, the defendants searched plaintiff.

16. The search yielded no evidence of any guns, drugs, or contraband.

17. Despite the absence of any evidence of wrongdoing on the part of plaintiff, the defendants formally arrested plaintiff.

18. The decision to arrest plaintiff was objectively unreasonable under the circumstances.

19. The defendants then took plaintiff to station house of the 69th Precinct where he was held for several hours and improperly strip searched by the defendants.

20. The strip search yielded no evidence of any guns, drugs, or contraband.

21. Plaintiff was nonetheless eventually transferred to Kings County Central Booking where he was held for several more hours before he was arraigned on a criminal complaint sworn to or made on the basis of false allegations provided by each of the defendants.

22. Plaintiff was eventually released with a future court date and was forced to make several court appearances pursuant to these false allegations before the charges against him

were dismissed when he acceded to an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal.

23. At no time prior to or during the encounter was there probable cause to arrest plaintiff.

24. At no time did any defendants take any steps to intervene in, prevent, or otherwise limit the misconduct engaged in by the defendants against plaintiff.

25. The individual defendants intentionally and deliberately gave false statements and/or failed to file accurate or corrective statements, or otherwise failed to report the conduct of the defendants who engaged in the misconduct described herein as required.

26. That at all times relevant herein, the defendants were acting within the scope of their employment, and their acts were done in furtherance of the City of New York's interests and without legal justification or excuse.

**FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
AGAINST THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS**

27. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in each of the foregoing paragraphs as though stated fully herein.

28. At no time did defendants have any legal basis for arresting or imprisoning plaintiff, commencing criminal process, or using physical force against him, or for strip searching him, nor was there any reasonable basis to believe said conduct set forth herein was lawful, reasonable, or otherwise appropriate.

29. Defendants willfully and intentionally seized, searched, detained, arrested, and strip searched plaintiff without probable cause, and without a reasonable basis to believe such cause existed.

30. By so doing, the individual defendants, individually and collectively, subjected plaintiff to false arrest and imprisonment, unlawful searches of person and property, unlawful strip search, and denial of due process, and thereby violated, conspired to violate, and aided and abetted in the violation of plaintiff's rights under the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution.

31. By reason thereof, the individual defendants have violated 42 U.S.C. §1983 and caused plaintiff to suffer emotional and physical injuries, mental anguish, incarceration and the deprivation of liberty, and the loss of his constitutional rights.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION
AGAINST THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

32. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in each of the foregoing paragraphs as though stated fully herein.

33. Defendant City of New York was responsible for ensuring that reasonable and appropriate levels of supervision were in place within and/or over the NYPD.

34. Defendant had actual or constructive knowledge that there was inadequate supervision over and/or within the NYPD with respect to its members' abuse of their authority, use of excessive force, abuse of arrest powers, and other blatant violations of the United States Constitution and the rules and regulations of the NYPD. Despite ample notice of inadequate supervision, defendants took no steps to ensure that reasonable and appropriate levels of supervision were put place to reasonably ensure that NYPD members engaged in police conduct in a lawful and proper manner, including their use of their authority as law enforcement officers with respect to the general public, including, and specifically, the plaintiff herein.

35. The defendant City of New York deliberately and intentionally chose not to take action to correct the chronic, systemic, and institutional misuse and abuse of police authority by its NYPD employees, and thereby deliberately and intentionally adopted, condoned, and otherwise created through deliberate inaction and negligent supervision, an NYPD policy, practice, and custom of utilizing illegal and impermissible searches, arrests, and detentions, and the manufacturing of evidence, in the ordinary course of NYPD business in flagrant disregard of the state and federal constitutions, as well as the Patrol Guide, up to and beyond the plaintiff's arrest.

36. All of the acts and omissions by the individual defendants described above were carried out pursuant to overlapping policies and practices of the municipal defendant in their capacities as police officers and officials pursuant to customs, policies, usages, practices, procedures and rules of the City and the NYPD, all under the supervision of ranking officers of the NYPD.

37. The aforementioned customs, practices, procedures, and rules of the City and the NYPD include, but are not limited to, the following unconstitutional practices:

- a. Using excessive force on individuals, including but not limited to those who have already been handcuffed;
- b. Failing to supervise, train, instruct and discipline police officers and encouraging their misconduct;
- c. Discouraging police officers from reporting the corrupt or unlawful acts of other officers;
- d. Retaliating against officers who report police misconduct; and
- e. Failing to intervene to prevent the above-mentioned practices when such intervention is reasonably available.

38. The existence of aforesaid unconstitutional customs and policies may be inferred from repeated occurrences of similar wrongful conduct, as documented in the following, non-exhaustive list of civil actions:

- a. *Thompson v. City of New York*, 10-CV-3603 (ARR) (SMG) (E.D.N.Y.)
- b. *Lotorto v. City of New York*, 10-CV-1223 (ILG) (JMA) (E.D.N.Y.);
- c. *Zabala v. City of New York*, 37711/2010 (Sup. Ct., Kings Co.);
- d. *Ashe v. City of New York*, 09-CV-9696 (GBD) (THK) (S.D.N.Y.);
- e. *Long v. City of New York*, 09-CV-9216 (AKH) (S.D.N.Y.);
- f. *Moise v. City of New York*, 09-CV-9855 (DC) (JLC) (S.D.N.Y.)
- g. *Taylor-Mickens v. City of New York*, 09-CV-7923 (RWS) (S.D.N.Y.);
- h. *Carmody v. City of New York*, 05-CV-8084 (HB), 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 83207;
- i. *McMillan v. City of New York*, 04-CV-3990 (FB) (RML) (E.D.N.Y.);
- j. *Avent v. City of New York*, 04-CV-2451 (CBA) (CLP) (E.D.N.Y.);
- k. *Smith v. City of New York*, 04-CV-1045 (RRM) (JMA) (E.D.N.Y.);
- l. *Powers v. City of New York*, 04-CV-2246 (NGG) (E.D.N.Y.);
- m. *Dotson v. City of New York*, 03-CV-2136 (RMB) (S.D.N.Y.);
- n. *Nonnemann v. City of New York*, 02-CV-10131 (JSR) (AJP) (S.D.N.Y.);
- o. *Richardson v. City of New York*, 02-CV-3651 (JG) (CLP) (E.D.N.Y.);
- p. *Barry v. New York City Police Department*, 01-CV-10627 (CBM) (S.D.N.Y.);
- q. *Walton v. Safir*, 99-CV-4430 (AKH) (S.D.N.Y.);
- r. *White-Ruiz v. The City of New York*, 93-CV-7233 (DLC) (MHD) (S.D.N.Y.);

s. *Ariza v. City of New York*, 93-CV-5287 (CPS) (E.D.N.Y.);

39. In an Order dated November 25, 2009, in *Colon v. City of New York*, 09-CV-0008 (E.D.N.Y.), the Hon. Jack B. Weinstein stated:

Informal inquiry by the court and among the judges of this court, as well as knowledge of cases in other federal and state courts, has revealed anecdotal evidence of repeated, widespread falsification by arresting police officers of the New York City Police Department. Despite numerous inquiries by commissions and strong reported efforts by the present administration -- through selection of candidates for the police force stressing academic and other qualifications, serious training to avoid constitutional violations, and strong disciplinary action within the department -- there is some evidence of an attitude among officers that is sufficiently widespread to constitute a custom or policy by the city approving illegal conduct of the kind now charged.

40. Furthermore, more than half the time that the Civilian Complaint Review Board refers substantiated complaints against officers to the NYPD for disciplinary action, the NYPD either simply issues a verbal warning or drops the charges altogether.

41. It is therefore clear that the municipal defendant has not only tolerated, but actively fostered a lawless atmosphere within the NYPD and that the City of New York was deliberately indifferent to the risk that the inadequate level of supervision would lead to the violation of individuals' constitutional rights in general, and caused the violation of plaintiff's rights in particular.

42. By reason thereof, defendant has violated 42 U.S.C. §1983 and caused plaintiff to suffer emotional and physical injuries, mental anguish, incarceration and the deprivation of liberty, and the loss of his constitutional rights.

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
AGAINST THE INDIVIDUAL DEFENDANTS AND THE CITY OF NEW YORK VIA
RESPONDEAT SUPERIOR**

43. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in each of the foregoing paragraphs as though stated fully herein.

44. Plaintiff was subjected to false arrest, false imprisonment, assault, battery, and unlawful strip search.

45. At no time did defendants have any legal basis for arresting plaintiff or commencing criminal process against him, nor was there any reasonable basis to believe said conduct set forth herein was lawful, reasonable, or otherwise appropriate.

46. The defendants, including the City of New York, are therefore liable under New York law to plaintiff for false arrest, false imprisonment, assault, battery, and unlawful strip search.

47. By reason thereof, defendants have caused plaintiff to suffer loss of liberty, mental anguish, the loss of his constitutional rights, and unlawful incarceration.

DEMAND FOR A JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38, plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial of all issues capable of being determined by a jury.

WHEREFORE, the plaintiff demands judgment against defendants jointly and severally as follows:

- i. On the First Cause of Action, damages in a substantial sum of money against the individual defendants in an amount to be determined at trial;

- ii. On the First Cause of Action, punitive damages in a substantial sum of money against the individual defendants in an amount to be determined at trial;
- iii. On the Second Cause of Action, damages in a substantial sum of money against the City of New York in an amount to be determined at trial;
- iv. On the Third Cause of Action, damages in a substantial sum of money against the individual defendants in an amount to be determined at trial;
- v. On the Third Cause of Action, punitive damages in a substantial sum of money against the individual defendants in an amount to be determined at trial;
- vi. On the Third Cause of Action, damages in a substantial sum of money against the City of New York in an amount to be determined at trial;
- vii. Statutory attorney's fees pursuant to, inter alia, 42 U.S.C. §1988 and New York common law, as well as disbursements, and costs of this action; and
- viii. such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: Brooklyn, New York
October 15, 2014

By: 

Jessica Massimi (JM-2920)
Reibman & Weiner
Attorneys for Plaintiff
26 Court Street, Suite 1808
Brooklyn, New York 11242
718-522-1743